

Remarks

Claims 15 and 55 have been amended to recite "cellulose fibers" and "lignin fibers". Support for the amendments to claims 15 and 55 is found at least in paragraph [0041] of the present specification. No question of new matter arises and entry of the above-requested amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 15-24, 27-28, 51, 53-55, 57-58, 60, and 62-73 are before the Examiner for consideration.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 15 and 55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner asserts that although claims 15 and 55 limit the reinforcing agents to fibrous materials, cellulose and lignin cannot be considered fibrous reinforcing agents.

In response to this rejection, Applicants have amended claims 15 and 55 to recite "cellulose fibers" and "lignin fibers". As recited in the specification in paragraph [0041], "[t]he reinforcing agents, in fibrous form, include wollastonite, wood fibers, cellulose, or lignin (emphasis added)." Applicants respectfully submit that the cellulose and lignin recited in claims 15 and 55 prior to this Amendment were intended to be in fibrous form, as taught in the present specification. Accordingly, Applicants submit that amended claims 15 and 55, which recite cellulose and lignin fibers, are sufficiently definite and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Allowance of Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 16-24, 27-28, 51, 53-54, 57-58, 60, and 62-73

Applicants appreciate the indication of the allowance of claims 1, 4-6, 8, 10-12, 16-24, 27-28, 51, 53-54, 57-58, 60, and 62-73 and request that these claims be passed to allowance with the remaining claims in the application.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance and, therefore, request favorable consideration.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0568 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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